

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC BL
SUBJ: ANDERSON COLUMN ON US PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

1. THE TWO MAJOR LA PAZ DAILIES PRESENCIA AND EL DIARIO COMMENTED APRIL 2 AND 4 ON RECENT JACK ANDERSON MARCH 19 COLUMN. LATTER PUBLISHED FEATURE ARTICLE DESCRIBING ANDERSON COLUMN WITH LITTLE OR NO COMMENTS FROM EL DIARIO. HOWEVER, HEADLINE OF ARTICLE STATED QUOTE DRUG TRAFFIC--US AID ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF DELAY IN PROCESSING UNQUOTE.

2. PRESENCIA RAN TRANSLATION OF ANDERSON COLUMN AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED VIEWS EXPRESSED THEREIN IN AN EDITORIAL ON SAME PAGE. NOTING REPORT OF US TEAM (MOSCOWITZ, FIELDS, BALDWIN) THAT US PRISONER'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED, PRESENCIA ARGUED INSTEAD THAT COLUMN WAS IN FACT A PLEA FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT OF US PRISONERS. (EDITORIAL APPLAUDED US PARTICIPATION IN WORLDWIDE EFFORTS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFIC.)

3. PRESENCIA ADMITTED BOLIVIAN DRUG LAW IS EXCESSIVELY SEVERE FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES AND THAT JUSTICE IN BOLIVIA MOVES SLOWLY. HOWEVER, EDITORIAL CONTINUES, NEITHER OF THESE TWO OBSERVATIONS IMPLIES NEGLECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. US PRISONERS, IT ADDED, RECEIVE TREATMENT EQUAL TO BOLIVIAN PRISONERS. EDITORIAL ALSO ACCUSED
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ANDERSON OF DEMAGOGUERY IN ACCEPTING PRISONER COMPLAINTS AS THOUGH THEY WERE FULLY PROVEN.

4. COMMENT: THE CATHOLIC DAILY PRESENCIA HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS STRONGLY SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICIES IN PARTICULAR. ITS CRITICISM OF ANDERSON COLUMN IS PROBABLY INDEPENDENT OF GOB VIEWS WITH WHICH

PRESENCIA OFTEN DISAGREES. EDITORIAL'S RAISING NATIONALISTIC ISSUE OF POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BOLIVIAN PRISONERS IN FAVOR OF US DETAINEES PROBABLY COMPLICATES LIFE OF GOB OFFICIALS TRYING TO SPEED PROCESSING OF JAILED US CITIZENS. GIVEN PRESENCIA'S WELL-KNOWN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ITS REJECTION OF THESIS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED AND CLAIM THAT INSTEAD SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR US PRISONERS IS BEING SOUGHT WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED BY MANY BOLIVIANS. IN SHORT, ANDERSON COLUMN HAS SUCCEEDED IN PREJUDICING THOSE BOLIVIANS MOST CONSISTENTLY CRITICAL OF GOB JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST US PRISONER CASES, HOWEVER, EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT COLUMN AND EDITORIAL WILL PROVOKE DELAYS IN GOB EFFORTS TO MOVE HEARINGS ALONG.

5. AUTHOR OF EDITORIAL PROBABLY IS LEADER GRANTEE, HUASCAR CAJIAS, WHO PLANS VISIT THE US ABOUT APRIL 12. AS MISSION ALREADY NOTED, IT HAS REQUESTED BRIEFING FOR CAJIAS FROM DEPARTMENT ON US PRISONER ISSUE.

6. ANDERSON COLUMN CLAIMS KNOWLEDGE OF US TEAM'S "REPORT" IMPLYING A WRITTEN REPORT. EMBASSY WAS BRIEFED ORALLY BY TEAM PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM LA PAZ, BUT WE UNDERSTOOD AT THE TIME THAT NO WRITTEN TEAM REPORT WAS PLANNED. PARTICULARLY SINCE ANDERSON COMMENTS ALLEGEDLY BASED ON REPORT DIFFER GREATLY FROM TEAM BRIEFING EMBASSY RECEIVED HERE, EMBASSY ALSO WISHES TO RECEIVE COPY OF TEAM REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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